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E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

BT

TAGS: PREL, PINR, PGOV, AU, SW, IS, YO, GR

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.107/86, FOR 07/11/86

AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S. INTERVIEWED ON WALDHEIM AFFAIR AND U.S.-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS

1. IN AN INTERVIEW ON NATIONAL TELEVISION, AUSTRIA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE US, THOMAS KLESTIL, NOTED THAT THE CANCELLATION OF THE PLANNED U.S. VISIT BY THE AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR WAS NOT LINKED TO WALDHEIM'S ELECTION AS PRESIDENT. KLESTIL ALSO DISMISSED SPECULATION ABOUT A POSSIBLE IMPAIRMENT OF U.S.-AUSTRIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS BECAUSE OF THE ELECTION OUTCOME. ACCORDING TO THE

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AMBASSADOR, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN "EXTREMELY CORRECT" IN ITS APPROACH TO THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR. BILATERAL RELATIONS CONTINUE TO BE "EXCELLENT", THE DIPLOMAT SAID. KLESTIL CALLED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE DISCUSSION IN AUSTRIA OF THE COUNTRY'S PAST. AUSTRIA "MUST CONVINCINGLY EXPRESS GENUINE AND DEEP SHOCK ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST", THE AMBASSADOR DECLARED. (ORF NEWS, JUNE 11,12)

GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE

2. PUBLIC AFFAIRS MINISTER FERDINAND LACINA IS THE 4TH MINISTER TO STEP DOWN AFTER CHANCELLOR SINOWATZ'S RESIGNATION JUNE 9. CHANCELLOR-DESIGNATE FRANZ VRANITZKY WILL PRESENT HIS NEW CABINET JUNE 13. ACCORDING TO POLITICAL OBSERVERS, THE PLANNED CHANGES IN THE MINISTRIES SUGGEST A SWEEPING DEFEAT FOR THE "ORTHODOX BLOC" IN THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND THE ABANDONMENT OF GREEN-ALTERNATIVE VOTERS. (INDEPENDENT KURIER, ORF NEWS, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, JUNE 12)

WALDHEIM DENOUNCES ANTI-SEMITISM

3. IN HIS FIRST INTERNATIONAL POST-ELECTION PRESS CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT-ELECT KURT WALDHEIM DENOUNCED ALL FORMS OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND PLEADED FOR RECONCILIATION AND TOLERANCE. AUSTRIAN NEWSPAPERS NOTED THE "AGGRESSIVE ATMOSPHERE" CREATED BY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS QUESTIONING WALDHEIM ABOUT HIS WARTIME PAST. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, INDEPENDENT KURIER, INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUG, ORF NEWS, JUNE 11,12)

ISRAELI REACTION TO WALDHEIM ELECTION

4. THE ISRAELI PARLIAMENT UNANIMOUSLY CONDEMNED WALDHEIM'S ELECTION AS PRESIDENT. AT THE SAME TIME, ISRAELI FM SHAMIR ANNOUNCED THAT HIS COUNTRY WILL NOT BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA, BUT SAID IT WAS "EXTREMELY UNLIKELY" THAT THE RECALLED ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA WILL RETURN TO VIENNA. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, ORF NEWS, JUNE 12)

FM GRATZ ON AUSTRIAN CONCEPT OF NEUTRALITY

5. IN THE COURSE OF A PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION OF THE FOREIGN POLICY REPORT, OUTGOING FM GRATZ DEFINED AUSTRIA'S NEUTRALITY AS A "PRACTICAL POLICY WHICH INCLUDES A PASSIONATE COMMITMENT TO WESTERN DEMOCRACY". (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, INDEPENDENT DIE

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PRESSE, JUNE 12)

JUSTICE MINISTER VISITS SWEDEN
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 08620

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6. JUSTICE MINISTER HARALD OFNER CONCLUDED A 3-DAY WORKING VISIT TO SWEDEN JUNE 11, DURING WHICH HE DISCUSSED LEGAL ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL WHITE-COLLAR CRIME. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, JUNE 12). LAUDER END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED